



**CITY COUNCIL  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

**RESOLUTION**

**05-R-1084**

**COUNCILMEMBER C. T. MARTIN**

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE A QUARTERLY REPORT TO  
THE CITY UTILITIES COMMITTEE AND TO THE  
MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL AS IT RELATES TO THE  
TERMINATION AND RESTORATION OF WATER/SEWER  
SERVICE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**WHEREAS**, the Council adopted and the Mayor approved, guidelines for the collection of water/sewer bills; and

**WHEREAS**, for many years, the City has billed customers on a bi-monthly basis; and

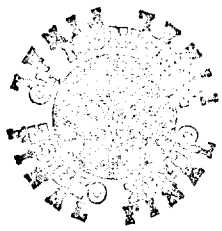
**WHEREAS**, effective in September of 2004, the City went to a monthly billing system; and

**WHEREAS**, this change has caught some elderly low-income customers off guard, especially the elderly, who had grown accustomed to budgeting on a bi-monthly system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Water and the Treasury Division of the Finance Department were authorized to develop written policies and procedures for the billing, collection and cut-off procedures for the provision for water and sewer services; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 154-.120, **Nonpayment of bills, reads (in part) as follows:**

- (1) "Upon the failure of any person to: (i) Pay any water bill assessment, advance payment or charge against any premises for which the person is responsible by the due date set forth in the bill; or (ii) To send a written notice of dispute to the company in accordance with the instructions contained on the applicable bill, the person will be sent a notice that their service will be terminated without further notice and the commissioner of water and the company are authorized to turn off and discontinue water service to the person and premises until the bill or charge is paid, and a charge fixed by the council will be made for each turnoff. Subject to O.C.G.A. § 30-60-17, the delinquent bill or charge shall be a lien on the property where the bill or charge was incurred. In no event will the termination of service



be later than 30 days from the due date of the bill for monthly bills and 60 days for bi-monthly bills.

(2) A late fee of \$5.00 or five percent of the total bill, whichever is greater, will be assessed on all water and sewer bills rendered that are not paid by the established due date on the bill. The bill rendered for the following billing cycle will contain the past due amount plus the \$5.00 or five percent of the total bill, whichever is greater, late fee.

(3) The past due charges, late fee and any other appropriate charges must be paid in full before service is restored. Said late fees shall be deposited into fund, account, and center number 2J01 462601 B00001.

(4) The department of finance shall cause books recording all liens for unpaid water and sewer bills and charges to be prominently displayed for public inspection in the office where the chief financial officer keeps other lien information books and in the office where the general execution docket of the county wherein the delinquent property is located.

(5) Subject to O.C.G.A. § 30-60-17, the charge must be paid before water is turned on again unless the commissioner of water, in the commissioner's discretion, waives such charges."

**WHEREAS**, the lack of water and sewer creates a health hazard; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the City Council that the low-income elderly be afforded additional time to adjust to the change in the billing practice.

**WHEREAS**, the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report of the Department of Watershed Management indicated that more than 16,000 terminations occurred during that period.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA** as follows:

**SECTION 1:** That the Watershed Department is requested to provide a **quarterly** report to the City Utilities Committee and all members of the City Council. **Initially reports will be given by zip code only. When CIS is fully implemented, reports will show the geographical distribution of service terminations by zip code, council district and street address.** This report shall be in the form of lists, charts, graphs and accompanied by maps produced on the City's new Council accessible GIS system. The period covered should begin October, 2004.



This report shall also include the address listing mapping of service restoration when the new Customer Information System (CIS) is implemented.

**SECTION 2:** That the Department of Watershed Management make every effort to notify all residential customers of the cutoff policy, and to work closely with the elderly for the payment of their water/sewer bills.

**SECTION 3:** That all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby waived

A true copy

*Rhonda Daughin Johnson*  
Municipal Clerk, CMC

ADOPTED as amended by Council  
RETURNED WITHOUT SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR  
APPROVED as per City Charter Section 2-403

June 20, 2005

June 29, 2005

RCS# 6758  
6/20/05  
4:34 PM

Atlanta City Council

Regular Session

05-R-1084

REQ DWM PROVIDE QUARTERLY REPORT TO CU  
& COUNCIL TERMIN/RESTOR WATER/SEWER SERV  
ADOPT AS AMEND

YEAS: 9  
NAYS: 3  
ABSTENTIONS: 0  
NOT VOTING: 3  
EXCUSED: 0  
ABSENT 1

Y Smith	Y Archibong	Y Moore	Y Mitchell
N Starnes	N Fauver	Y Martin	Y Norwood
Y Young	B Shook	Y Maddox	NV Willis
NV Winslow	N Muller	Y Sheperd	NV Borders

05-R-1084

#5

05-R-1084  
(Do Not Write Above This Line)

A RESOLUTION

Councilmember C. T. Martin

A Resolution to require the Department of Watershed Management to provide a monthly report to the City Utilities Committee and to the members of City Council as it relates to the termination and restoration of water/sewer service; and for other purposes

ADOPTED BY

JUN 2 0 2005

COUNCIL

AS AMENDED

- ☐ CONSENT REFER
- ☐ REGULAR REPORT REFER
- ☐ ADVERTISE & REFER
- ☐ 1st ADOPT 2nd READ & REFER
- ☒ PERSONAL PAPER REFER

Date Referred 6/8/05  
Referred To: City Utilities  
Date Referred  
Referred To:  
Date Referred  
Referred To:

First Reading

Committee \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred To \_\_\_\_\_

Committee

City Utilities  
Date 6/4/05  
Chair Steve Siro

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)  
Other AS (see rev. side)

Members

Steve Martin  
Chris Mueller

Refer To

Refer To

Committee

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)  
Other

Members

Refer To

Refer To

Committee

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)  
Other

Members

Members

Refer To

Refer To

FINAL COUNCIL ACTION

- ☐ 2nd
- ☐ 1st & 2nd
- ☐ 3rd
- ☒ Consent
- ☐ V Vote
- ☒ RC Vote

CERTIFIED

JUN 2 0 2005

Removed from consent  
by Mueller 6-20-05

CERTIFIED  
JUN 2 0 2005  
Chris Mueller

MAYOR'S ACTION

APPROVED

JUN 2 9 2005

WITHOUT SIGNATURE  
BY OPERATION OF LAW